

*Testimony - Elder Abuse Legislation*

*February 21st 2012*

*My name is Gloria Kovnot. I am a resident of Delta Township and a Delegate to MSAC (Michigan Senior Advocacy Council). I represent Region 6 which is Eaton, Clinton and Ingham Counties.*

*I am here today to voice my support for passing the package of Elder Abuse Legislation that has passed the Michigan Senate and is now in this House Committee for a vote. This package has reforms that are critical for the protection of an estimate 80,000 older Michigan residents who are victim of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. They live in constant fear of their lives and are treated as disguardd shopping bags. The key way to prevent elder abuse is education and early intervention.*

*The majority of abuse comes from family and friends. We need to give our citizens every legal tool we can to report abuses to the proper authority. Turning someone over to authorities is hard enough but especially hard when it is someone you know very well. We need to give our citizens every legal tool we can to report abuses to the proper authorities.*

*Reporting abuse is very difficult especially when it is within your circle of family and friends. Coach Joe Paterno said, in his Grand Jury Hearing Testimony last year, that " He should have done more"*

*Please pass this package of bills out of committee and on to the House so that we give our citizens every opportunity to report abuse. None of us want to hear those word, "We should have done more."*

*Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion with this committee.*

*Gloria Kovnot*